



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/866,825	05/29/2001	Thomas I. Insley	54605USA6B.007	6171

32692 7590 02/13/2003

3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY
PO BOX 33427
ST. PAUL, MN 55133-3427

EXAMINER

CHAN, SING P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1734

DATE MAILED: 02/13/2003

13

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

09/866,825

Applicant(s)

INSLEY ET AL.

Examin r

Sing P Chan

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication app ars on th cov r sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 32-34 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35 and 36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 35 recites a method of forming a filtration media by slicing the filtration media array with a hot wire to "directly form a dimensionally stable three dimensional filter media." The phrase "directly form a dimensionally stable three dimensional filter media" is considered to be new matter. The specification does not describe the process of forming a filtration media array by directly forming a dimensionally stable three dimensional filter media.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 35, it is unclear what is meant by the phrase "directly form a dimensionally stable three dimensional filter media." For the purpose of examination, "forming a dimensionally stable three dimensional filter media" will be assumed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 35 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kalt (U.S. 4,249,919) in view of Landi et al (U. S. 5,039,567) and Schjeldahl (U.S. 4,319,952).

Kalt discloses a method of forming an electrostatic filter. The method includes the steps of forming the first polymeric film into the desired shape using heat and pressure, bonding the first polymeric film to the second polymeric film to form the flow channel layer assembly, (Col 3, line 30 to Col 4, line 50, Col 5, lines 8-15, and figures 1-5) the films are bonded together using heat lamination, which partially melt one face of the multiplayer flow channel assembly, (Col 5, lines 21-22) layering the channel layer assembly to create the filtration media array with multiple flow channel layers. (Col 3, lines 30-51 and Col 3, line 60-66) Kalt does not disclose slicing filtration media array with a hot wire to fuse the adjacent layers together. However, it is well known and conventional to use a cutting means to easily cut core strips such as used in Kalt from laminated blocks as shown for example by Landi et al (Col 4, lines 40-51) Landi et al

indicates any cutting means are usable to cut the filtration media but does not specifically disclose the use of a hot wire. (Col 4, lines 49-51) Schjeldahl teaches using a hot wire provides a simultaneous formation of a fused weld when cutting a thermoplastic material such as the Mylar in Kalt. (Col 4, line 43 to Col 5, line 4)

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to easily form the cores in Kalt's from a laminated block as suggested by Landi et al using a hot wire to fuse the Mylar during cutting as suggested by Schjeldahl.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claim 32 is allowed.
8. Claims 33-34 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for indicating allowance and allowance: The claims recite a method of forming a contoured layer channel flow filtration media. The method includes the steps of forming a contoured polymer film, joining the contoured polymer film to another flat polymer film to form a flow channel layer assembly, changing the flow channel layer assembly electrostaticly to form the charged filtration media, and layering the charged filtration media to form the filter with multiple flow channels. Kalt discloses a method of forming an electrostatic filter. The method includes the steps of forming the first polymeric film into the desired shape using heat and pressure, bonding the first polymeric film to the second polymeric film to form the flow channel layer assembly, and charging the filter with an electrical circuit to

filter the particle. (Col 3, line 30 to Col 4, line 50, Col 5, lines 8-15, and figures 1-5)
However, Kalt does not disclose charging the flow channel layer assembly prior to layering the flow channel layer assembly to form the filter. A search of the prior art of record did not disclose any reference or references in combination, which recite the feature.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed December 23, 2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

10. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, cutting a polymeric filtration array with a hot wire will cause the polymer to melt and fused together irregardless if the array is already bonded together with adhesive or jointed. The fusing of the layer will provide an addition jointing of the layer to further connect the

layers together. The claims do not exclude the layers from being jointed or bonded together with adhesive and the applicant's method also included layers that are jointed together prior to cutting. (Specification Page 12, lines 12-16)

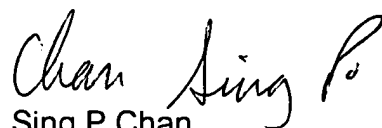
11. In response to applicant's argument that the examiner's conclusion of obviousness is based upon improper hindsight reasoning, it must be recognized that any judgment on obviousness is in a sense necessarily a reconstruction based upon hindsight reasoning. But so long as it takes into account only knowledge which was within the level of ordinary skill at the time the claimed invention was made, and does not include knowledge gleaned only from the applicant's disclosure, such a reconstruction is proper. See *In re McLaughlin*, 443 F.2d 1392, 170 USPQ 209 (CCPA 1971).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sing P Chan whose telephone number is 703-305-3175. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on 703-308-3853. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9310 for regular communications and 703-872-9311 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 1734

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0661.



Sing P Chan
Examiner
Art Unit 1734

spc
February 10, 2003



RICHARD CRISPINO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700